



BOROUGH OF SALTASH

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R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1972

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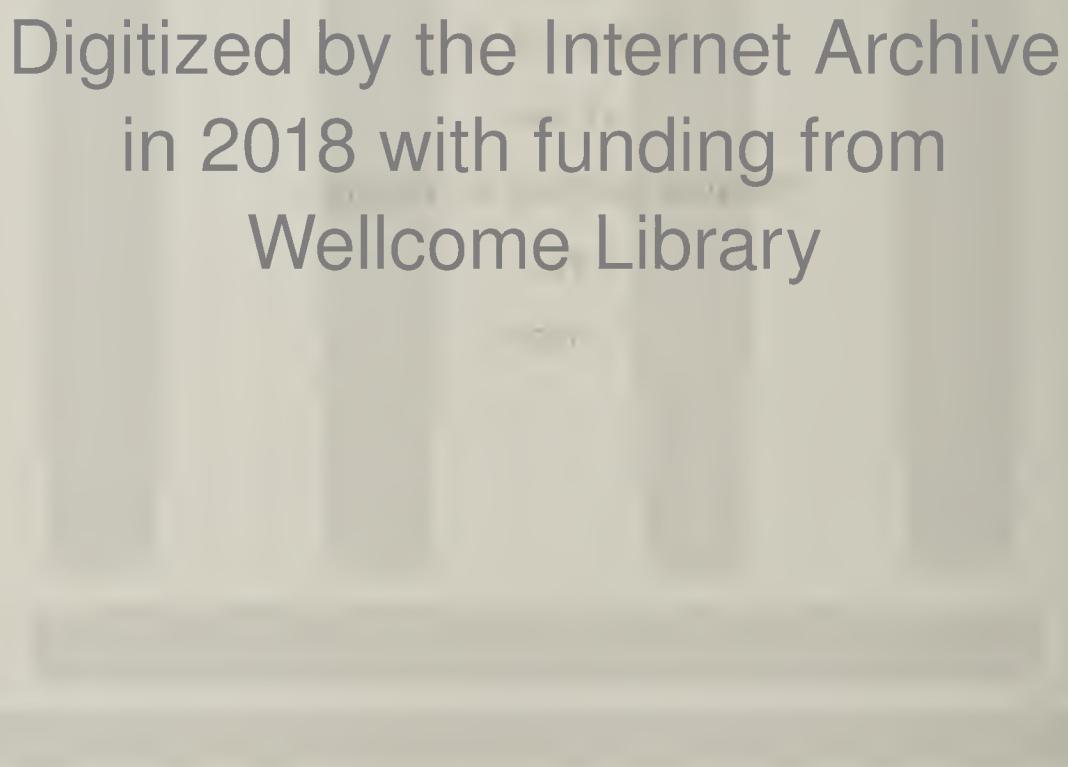
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BOROUGH OF SALTASH

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF SALTASH

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The estimated population of No. 7 Health Area on the 30th June, 1972, was 56,480. This represented an increase of 1,290 over the corresponding figure for 1971. In the Liskeard Rural District and the Borough of Saltash the increase was 340, in Torpoint Urban District 280, in St. Germans Rural District 270, and in the Borough of Liskeard 70. In the Looe Urban District an insignificant decrease of 10 in the population was recorded.

Live births registered during 1972 totalled 823, a reduction of 32 on the high figure of the previous year. The corrected birth rate at 16.1 per 1,000 of population was 1.3 per 1,000 above the national rate. Illegitimate births totalled 62 representing 7.5% of all live births, the same percentage as in 1971. The rate for still births was slightly under the national figure and that for infant mortality slightly above the national rate. Of the 16 infants dying under one year of age 9 were lost in the critical first four weeks after birth. No death attributable to maternal causes occurred during the year.

Deaths totalling 781 showed an increase of 2 on the 1971 figure, and produced a corrected rate of 11.5 per 1,000 of population to set against the national rate of 12.1. A breakdown of the principal causes of death again showed heart disease to be the most common cause of death being responsible for 37% of all deaths. Next in order cancer caused 21% of all deaths and as is usual now cancer of the lung and windpipe was the most prevalent single type of that generally fatal disease. Of the 781 persons who died during 1972 some 386 or 49% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

During 1972 the incidence of notifiable disease was comparatively light with a total of 81 cases being notified. Of this total 70 were due to measles. Of the more serious forms of notifiable disease there was one case only - a meningococcal meningitis. The patient involved suffered a severe fulminating attack of this infection and outcome was unfortunately fatal.

As far as tuberculosis was concerned the year 1972 was an uncommonly good one during which two new cases only were notified. One was a respiratory infection of a 24 year old female, the other a non-respiratory infection of a 91 year old male. During the year 3 deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. All three persons concerned, two male and one female, were aged 75 years or more at the time of death.

The vital statistics used in making up the Annual Report are received during April and early May of the year following that to which the report refers. Thus the statistics setting out deaths during 1972 were received on the 10th April, 1973 whilst those relating to live births, still births, and infant deaths did not come to hand until the 2nd May, 1973. Until these statistics are received it is not possible to commence the preparation of an Annual Report which would be of any real value to the District Council to which it is addressed, or to those Departments of the Government which receive copies of the Report. However, under arrangements for the restructuring of Local Government the six County District Councils to whom since 1948 I have submitted Annual Reports will at the end of March 1974 cease to exist in their

present form, and their functions and duties will be taken over by the new large Caradon District Council which, already in existence in shadow form, will become fully operative on the 1st April, 1974. At that same time in 1974 the appointment I now hold as Medical Officer of Health will cease to exist. With this combination of circumstances it would seem to me difficult if not impossible, and something of a pointless and un-necessary exercise to produce in the summer of 1974 six Annual Reports for 1973 direct to District Councils which no longer exist. Moreover my personal circumstances are such that if a scheme for early retirement to be operated in conjunction with the National Health Service Reorganisation legislation came in effect, I would very likely retire on or before the 31st March, 1974.

From what I have written in the paragraph immediately preceding this it appears to me possible and indeed probable that this is the final Annual Report I shall be submitting to you. At the time of writing I have served for just over 25 years as Medical Officer of Health to the six County Districts in South-East Cornwall and it seems an appropriate time to offer to the Members and Officers of those Councils my sincere thanks for the support and understanding I have had from them over the years.

I have the honour to be,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FOX.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

T.M. KELLY

CLERKS

A.P. ROBINSON (MRS.)
M.A. SOADY (MRS.)

OPERATIVE

W.C. DIMMICK

SECTION 'A'.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Borough	5,386 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population (mid 1972)	10,280
Number of Inhabited houses (at 31.3.73)	3,706
Rateable Value (at 31.3.73)	£365,151
Product of 1p rate (1972/73)	£3,480

Vital Statistics for 1972.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live births	87	86	173
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	15.1	16.1	14.8
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Still births	1	3	4
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	23.0	11.0	12.0
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	70	64	134
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Death rate per 1,000 of population	12.5	11.5	12.1
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under one year of age	4	5	9
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	52.0	19.4	17.0

Principal causes of death at all ages

Heart disease	47
Cancer (all sites)	28
Stroke	23
Respiratory disease	14

There was again a sizeable excess of births over deaths. The number of infant deaths and the infant mortality rate were the highest recorded since I commenced keeping records in 1948. Of the nine infants who died, five failed to survive the critical first week of life. Three of the infant deaths were the result of congenital abnormalities, and a further three died as a result of birth injury and difficult labour.

Of those who died during the year some 52% had reached or exceeded the age of 75 years at the time of death.

THE LITERATURE OF THE MONTH

JULY 1937

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JULY 1937
VOL. 13, NO. 7

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PROBLEMS AND CONCERNED WITH THE
LITERATURE OF THE MONTH
OF JULY 1937
EDITED BY JAMES R. COOPER

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SECTION 'B'

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

1. Particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority:

These particulars are incorporated at the beginning of the report.

2. Committees:

All Public Health matters are dealt with by the Public Health Committee of the Borough Council.

3. National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47:

No action under this section was called for during the year.

4. National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50:

No action under this section was called for during the year.

SECTION 'C'

PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply:

(a) Quality:

The quality of mains water supplied to the Borough continued to be satisfactory. Samples for bacteriological examination were taken regularly during the year, a total of fifty-five samples being obtained. The Public Health Laboratory Service reports on these samples were as follows:

Satisfactory	54
Unsatisfactory	1

The unsatisfactory sample indicated very low level contamination and a follow-up sample proved to be satisfactory.

(b) Quantity:

No restrictions on the use of water were imposed during the year.

(c) Plumbo-Solvency:

The total hardness of mains water varies between 12 and 13. The water has little or no action on lead and no cases of lead poisoning were reported.

(d) Proportion of Population Supplied from Public Water Mains:

Except for one or two isolated dwellings, the whole of the Borough is provided with a mains water supply. The proportion of the population supplied by means of stand-pipes is negligible.

2. Drainage:

The Department continued to exercise careful control over the construction of new drainage systems within the Borough, a total of four hundred and seventeen visits being made for this purpose.

3. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

Work continued on the Council's new main drainage scheme which involves the laying of five miles of sewers and the construction of four pumping stations. Work also continued on the extension of the sewage disposal works at Coombe. It is hoped that the work will be completed by December, 1973.

4. Closet Accommodation:

So far as is known there are now no earth closets in use in the Borough.

5. Public Cleansing:

(a) Refuse Collection:

Refuse collection in the Borough continued to be carried out in a satisfactory manner, two vehicles being regularly employed for this purpose. A once weekly general collection is made throughout the Borough, with food shops receiving a twice weekly service. The collection of trade refuse is also undertaken, a small annual charge being levied in respect of this.

(b) Refuse Disposal:

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at the Salt Mill Tip and every effort is made to comply with Government recommendations in respect of controlled tipping. Regular measures continue to be taken to eradicate insect and rodent pests by chemical means.

(c) Street Cleansing:

Street cleansing continued to be carried out in a regular and efficient manner. The frequency varies from once daily to once weekly according to the type of street.

(d) Cesspool Emptying:

The emptying of cesspools is carried out by arrangement with a private firm.

6. Public Conveniences:

Male and female public conveniences are provided at:

Alexandra Square Car Park,
Callington Road,
Longstone Park,
St. Stephens,
Warfelton Sports field and
Waterside.

7. Public Health Inspection of the area:

The inspection of all districts continued to be carried out regularly by the Public Health Inspector and Technical Assistant, the following specific visits and inspections being made:

Unfit houses (repairable at reasonable cost)	..	..	6
Unfit houses (not repairable at reasonable cost)	..	..	3
House improvements	..	..	959
Overcrowding	..	..	1
Rent control	..	..	6
Butchers' shops	..	..	7
Fish-fryers' shops	..	..	4
Greengrocers' shops	..	..	2
Grocers' shops	..	..	1
Ice-cream premises	..	..	24
Milk distributors	..	..	4
Cafes, etc.	..	..	5
Licensed premises	..	..	2
Slaughterhouses	..	..	5
Meat inspection	..	..	40
Food inspection	..	..	16
Food complaints	..	..	6
Factories	..	..	32
Farms	..	..	62
Offices	..	..	18
Shops	..	..	42
Water supply	..	..	71
Drainage	..	..	417
Sewerage	..	..	87
Sewage disposal	..	..	7
Atmospheric pollution	..	..	1
Offensive odours	..	..	18

C/fwd. 1,846

				B/fwd.	1,846
Noise nuisances					11
Offensive trades					4
Storage of petroleum spirit					41
Offensive accumulations					25
Vacant land					3
Keeping of animals					15
Waste Food Boiling Plant					14
Pet shops					1
Rodent control					27
Insect control					12
Infectious diseases					3
Oyster fishery					122
					<hr/>
					2,124
Other visits (unclassified)					94
					<hr/>
					2,218
					<hr/>

8. Factories Act, 1961:

Co-operation continued to be maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in the exercise of the provisions of this Act.

The following table gives the number of factories in the Borough and details of inspections made.

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	0	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	24	0	0
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	8	8	0	0
	32	32	0	0

9. Outworkers:

Twenty-two outworkers were notified during the year, all of them being employed in the manufacture of wearing apparel. No instances of work being carried out in unwholesome premises were discovered.

10. Offices, Shops, etc.:

Forty-five premises were inspected under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, during the year, a total number of sixty visits being made for this purpose. The inspections revealed the following contraventions:

Lack of a thermometer	3
Inadequate ventilation	2
Unsuitable sanitary conveniences	3
Inadequate washing facilities	6
Lack of clothing accommodation	4
Defective floors, passages or stairs	1
Inadequate first aid materials	3
Other contraventions	<u>16</u>
	<u>38</u>

11. Noise:

Several complaints concerning excessive noise were made to the Department during the year and eleven visits were made in investigating them. In all cases the nuisances were abated by informal action.

12. Insect Control:

The Department continued to provide a service for the destruction of insect pests. The following table gives details of treatments carried out:

<u>Type of Infestation</u>	<u>No. of treatments</u>
Fleas	6
Beetles	2
Ants	3
Wasps	11
Woodworm	6
Flies	33
Other	<u>5</u>
	<u>66</u>

13. Rodent Control:

The control of rodents continued to be carried out on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

During the year two thousand, nine hundred and twenty inspections were made by the Operative, three hundred and forty-eight infestations being discovered. A successful treatment was carried out in the case of each infestation.

The annual 10% testing of sewer manholes was carried out in April. 107 manholes were tested, evidence of infestation being found in 13 cases. These and 31 adjoining manholes were subsequently treated with poison bait, leaving the town's sewers virtually rat free.

14. Pet Animals Act, 1951:

One shop is registered under this Act.

15. Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963:

One establishment is registered under this Act.

16. Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957:

Three premises were registered under this Act.

17. Educational Activities:

No new educational activities were undertaken by the Department during the year.

SECTION 'D'

1. Demolition of Unfit Houses:

(a) Clearance areas:

No houses were dealt with by clearance area procedure.

(b) Individual Unfit Houses:

No individual unfit houses were demolished during the year.

2. Closure of Unfit Houses:

One house was closed for the purpose of human habitation during the year.

3. Repair of Unfit Houses:

No houses were rendered fit as a result of informal or formal action.

4. Improvements:

(a) Improvement Grants:

In the period 1st April, 1972 to 31st March, 1973, one hundred and thirty improvement grants, amounting to £83,062.51, were paid.

(b) Standard Grants:

In the period 1st April, 1972 to 31st March, 1973, eleven standard grants, amounting to £3,250.39, were paid.

5. New house Construction:

(a) Local Authority:

Sixteen new Council dwellings, comprising of sixteen 1 bedroom bungalows for elderly people, were completed during the year.

(b) Private:

Seventy-six private dwellings were erected in the Borough during the year.

SECTION 'E'

1. Milk:

Milk supplied to the town continued to be obtained from several private producers and from a large pasteurising establishment. The supervision of the production of milk on farms continued to be in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The pasteurising establishment was inspected and controlled by officers of the County Council.

2. Meat:

(a) Slaughterhouses:

One slaughterhouse was licensed in the Borough but the premises closed down in September.

(b) Slaughtermen:

Four men were licensed to slaughter animals.

(c) Meat Inspection:

All animals slaughtered were inspected according to the method and criteria of meat inspection laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. The following table gives details of animals slaughtered and inspections made during the year:

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	77	0	0	0	0	0
Number inspected	77	0	0	0	0	0

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT
TUBERCULOSIS AND
CYSTICERCOSIS:

Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	22	0	0	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:

Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS ONLY:</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0

3. Ice-cream:

Twenty-two premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

Twenty samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:

Provisional Grade 1 -	14 samples,
" " 2 -	2 "
" " 3 -	4 "

4. Shellfish:

Co-operation was maintained with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Truro Public Health Laboratory in their investigations into the condition of oysters dredged from the River Lynher. The Department carried out 122 visits in connection with the fishery. Samples of oysters were taken on 18 occasions and samples of sea-water on 44 occasions.

5. Other foods:

The following food-stuffs were inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered voluntarily:

	lbs.	ozs.
Frozen meat	460	21
" pastry, sponges, etc.	64	1
" vegetables	177	12
" fish	294	10
" fruit	5	6
Ice cream, mousse, etc.	5	12
Canned vegetables	26	5
" fruit	113	2
" meat	144	13
" fish	3	8
" milk, cream, etc.	13	11
" puddings	1	14
Fruit juices	44	0
Soup	6	1
	<hr/>	
	1,362	4
	<hr/>	

During the previous year (1971) the amount of food found to be unfit (other than meat at the Slaughterhouse) was 1,115 lbs. 14 ozs. There was thus an increase during the year under review of 246 lbs. 6 ozs.

6. Food Complaints:

Four food complaints were investigated by the Department during the year. They concerned:

Bread containing foreign matter	-	1 case
Doughnut "	-	1 "
Bread roll "	-	1 "
Unfresh bacon	-	1 "

Appropriate informal action was taken in each case.

7. Food Premises:

(a) The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as follows:

Grocers	16
Bakers	1
Butchers	6
Cafes and restaurants	5
Fish fryers	3
Fishmongers	1
Greengrocers	6
Dairies	1
Distributors of milk	16
Licensed premises	10
Confectioners	4

(b) The number of food premises by type registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16:

(i) Ice cream:

Grocers	14
Confectioners	2
Mixed premises	<u>6</u>
	22
	<u>—</u>

(ii) Other:

Butchers (sausing making)	3
Fish-fryers	<u>2</u>
	6
	<u>—</u>

8. Method and Disposal of Unfit Food:

Unfit food continues to be disposed of by burial at the Salt Mill Tip. Meat found to be unfit at the Slaughterhouse was removed and destroyed by the Department.

9. Food Poisoning Outbreaks:

No outbreaks of food poisoning came to notice during the year.

SECTION 'F'

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1. Notifiable disease (other than tuberculosis).

During the year two cases only - one of scarlet fever and one of measles - were notified.

2. Tuberculosis.

The Borough had the doubtful distinction of having the only two new cases of tuberculosis which were notified in the whole of Health Area No. 7 during 1972. Of these one was a respiratory infection in a 24 year old female, the other being a non-respiratory infection in 91 year old male.

The following are comparative case rates for this disease:

	<u>Rate per 1,000 of population</u>	
	<u>Saltash M.B.</u>	<u>Health Area No. 7</u>
New cases	0.19	0.04
All known cases	1.07	0.89

At the end of the year there were 9 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and 2 known cases of other forms of tuberculosis resident in the Borough.

APPENDIX 1.PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH - ALL AGES - 1972.

DISEASE	ST.							
	GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE UD.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	
Heart Disease.	76	66	47	29	46	27	291	(37%)
Cancer (all sites)	51	45	28	9	17	10	160	(21%)
Stroke.	21	20	23	9	23	10	106	(14%)
Respiratory disease.	24	16	14	5	9	3	71	
Circulatory disease.	16	10	3	-	6	7	42	
Accidents.	6	11	3	3	4	1	28	*
Digestive disease	3	6	1	-	-	2	12	

* includes 10 motor vehicle accidents.

APPENDIX 2.TYPES OF HEART DISEASE AND CANCER CAUSING DEATH - 1972.

TYPE OF DISEASE	ST.							
	GERMANS R.D.	LISKEARD R.D.	SALTASH M.B.	TORPOINT U.D.	LISKEARD M.B.	LOOE UD.	HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	
Ischaemic heart disease.	60.	64	37	22	44	20	247	
Rheumatic heart disease.	3	-	1	2	1	1	8	
Hypertensive disease.	4	-	1	1	-	1	7	
Other heart disease.	9	2	9	4	1	5	29	
Cancer of lung/bronchus	7	12	6	2	4	2	33	
Cancer of intestine	8	6	5	3	2	1	25	
Cancer of stomach	6	4	-	1	-	2	13	
Cancer of breast	5	4	1	-	2	1	13	
Cancer of uterus	6	1	1	-	-	-	8	
Other cancers	19	18	15	3	9	4	68	

APPENDIX 3.DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1972.

DISTRICT.	0-4 years	5-14 years	15-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	All ages.
ST. GERMANS R.D.	5	1	4	42	53	114	219
LISKEARD R.D.	1	-	6	40	60	85	192
SALTASH M.B.	11	-	4	22	28	69	134
TORPOINT U.D.	-	1	2	16	15	25	59
LISKEARD M.B.	3	-	4	14	25	69	115
LOOE U.D.	-	-	1	14	23	24	62
HEALTH AREA NO. 7.	20	2	21	148	204	386 (49%)	781

APPENDIX 4.TUBERCULOSIS.NEW CASES IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1972.

<u>AGE GROUPS.</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS.</u>
0 - 4 years	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	1	1
25 - 44 years	-	-	-
45 - 64 years	-	-	-
65 years and over	1	-	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
New case rate per 1,000 of population	0.018	0.018	0.036

CASE RATES AND MORTALITY RATES IN COUNTY DISTRICTS IN HEALTH AREA NO. 7 - 1972.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>	<u>ALL KNOWN CASES</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>
St. Germans R.D.	-	0.84	-
Liskeard R.D.	-	0.61	-
Saltash M.B.	0.19	1.07	0.10
Torpoint U.D.	-	0.90	0.15
Liskeard M.B.	-	1.13	0.19
Looe U.D.	-	1.24	-
Health Area No. 7.	0.04	0.89	0.05
Cornwall County	0.17	2.09	0.03

APPENDIX 5CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS
DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS - 1972

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
35 - 44 years	1	-	1
45 - 54 years	1	-	1
55 - 64 years	10	1	11
65 - 74 years	8	3	11
75 years and over	5	4	9
	<u>25</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>33</u>

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION - 1972.

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>PERSONS</u>
Health Area No. 7.	0.443	0.142	0.585
Cornwall County	0.412	0.130	0.542
England and Wales	0.525	0.120	0.645

